

Everett, Adolph

From: Everett, Adolph
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 7:27 AM
To: Flax, Phil; Robles, Sadira
Subject: FW: FYI - RELEASE: BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION
Attachments: Rahway Arch Joint Letter.pdf; Rahway Arch - EPA.doc

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Everett, Adolph; Iglesias, Ariel; Filippelli, John
Subject: FW: FYI - RELEASE: BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION

I am sure John Martin is in touch with one of you directly on this, but wanted to give you a heads' up because this is the second media call we have gotten since late yesterday.

Mary Mears
Deputy Director Public Affairs and Chief Public Outreach Branch
U.S. EPA
Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR and the US VI)

(212) 637-3673 (Direct Office)
(212) 637-3660 (General Office)
(646) 369-0077 (Office Cell)

From: Rodriguez, Elias
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Mears, Mary; Bellow, Bonnie
Cc: Sebastian, Chris; Shore, Berry
Subject: FYI - RELEASE: BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION

John is handling - FYI

From: Makin, Bob [<mailto:BMakin@njpressmedia.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:31 PM
To: Rodriguez, Elias
Subject: FW: RELEASE: BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION

Can you confirm the EPA's receipt of this letter? I doubt you could release a statement about it, but if you can, that would be great. If not, confirmation would be appreciated. Thanks.

Best,
B :)

From: Debbie Mans [<mailto:debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:05 AM

To: debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org

Subject: FW: RELEASE: BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION

Please see the press release below from several Staten Island elected officials, federal, state and local, calling for an investigation into Soil Safe/Rahway Arch. The letter was sent to USEPA and NYSDEC.

NY/NJ Baykeeper supports the call for the investigation and appreciates the concern these NY elected officials have shown for both the public health and flooding concerns of their constituents, but also for the protection of the environment.

Unfortunately, NJDEP continues to move ahead with permitting the Rahway Arch project, heedless to the concerns of the community.

Deborah A. Mans, Baykeeper & Executive Director
NY/NJ Baykeeper
52 W. Front Street
Keyport, NJ 07735
732.888.9870 ext. 2
732.888.9873 fax
Website: www.nynjbaykeeper.org

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Protecting, preserving, and restoring the Hudson-Raritan Estuary since 1989.

From: Frank Mascia [<mailto:masciaf@assembly.state.ny.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:20 AM

To: Frank Mascia

Subject: RELEASE: BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION

For Immediate Release: March 18, 2014

Contact: Frank Mascia, [718-967-5194](tel:718-967-5194)

BORELLI & ISLAND ELECTEDS CALL FOR RAHWAY SOIL RECYCLING SITE INVESTIGATION

Assemblyman Joseph Borelli, along with Assembly Members Nicole Malliotakis, Michael Cusick, Matthew Titone, Senators Andrew Lanza, Diane Savino, Councilmen Vincent Ignizio, Steven Matteo, Borough President James Oddo, and Congressman Michael Grimm, have formally requested that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigate the proposed "Rahway Arch" soil recycling project at the mouth of the Rahway River in New Jersey.

The Rahway River feeds directly into the Arthur Kill waterway on Staten Island's west shore. The 125-acre tract of land upon which the Rahway Arch project intends to house the soil recycling operation is littered with acres-wide lagoons filled with cyanide-contaminated sludge from over 50 years of chemical dumping. Furthermore, this tract of land sits within a 100-year flood plain and was completely flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

The elected officials have written a letter to Judith Enck, Regional Director of the EPA, and Venetia Lannon, Regional Director of the DEC urging them to immediately weigh in on whether or not the Rahway Arch proposal would have any environmental or health impact on Staten Island or its surrounding bodies of water.

Said Borelli, "There has been significant public and academic criticism of the proposed recycling project, over which New Jersey's environmental agencies have issued permits. Since the Rahway River empties into the Arthur Kill and Raritan Bay, we believe it may fall under some jurisdictional oversight of the EPA and New York State DEC, and hope that those agencies will ensure that the quality of Staten Island, its coastline and its waters are maintained.".

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March 17, 2014

Ms. Judith Enck
Regional Director
US EPA
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Ms. Venetia Lannon
NYC Regional Director
NYS DEC
1 Hunter's Point Plaza
47-40 21st St
Long Island City, NY 11101

Ms. Enck,

We write to you today to express our deep concern over the proposed "Rahway Arch" project, which intends to establish a chemical waste repository on land along the Rahway River directly opposite of Staten Island. The land is located on what is considered a flood plain by FEMA, and the Rahway River feeds directly into our shared Arthur Kill waterway, which separates the Island from New Jersey.

This "soil recycling" project calls for millions of tons of highly chemically contaminated soil to be trucked in and dispersed over the property to act as a cap over the acres of cyanide-contaminated sludge that American Cyanamid dumped there for over 50 years. Of course, Staten Island is certainly no stranger to the needs and costs of chemical contamination and cleanup operations. That being said, we find it hard to believe that this project is going forward despite the concerns of the Army Corps of Engineers and many public officials in New Jersey.

The fact that the residential areas along the Rahway River have been publicly grappling with flooding issues is not comforting. The Rahway Arch property sits in a 100-year flood zone, meaning that anything constructed on the property, as per federal guidelines, would need to be elevated. Additionally, the site was completely flooded during Hurricane Sandy. We are asking your agencies to examine how runoff from the proposed 29' cap will impact the water quality of the Rahway River and the Arthur Kill. Additionally, we are asking your agencies to examine how potential storm surges will affect the water quality in the event of a future storm.

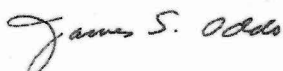
The New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection issued a conditional approval in May of last year, before even receiving the engineering studies. In light of the fact that this is an environmentally sensitive project, and that the property is at the mouth of the Rahway River which drains directly into the Arthur Kill, we find it hard to rely on NJDEP's permitting in ensuring this project will not adversely impact the Staten Island shoreline and the waters of the Arthur Kill, the Kill van Kull, and the Raritan Bay.

Ultimately, we've concluded that a thorough investigation of the Rahway Arch project's environmental impact is both prudent and necessary, and we would like to formally request that your offices commence such an investigation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Borelli
Member of Assembly
62nd District



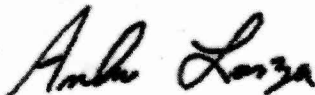
James S. Oddo
Borough President
Staten Island



Vincent Ignizio
Minority Leader, NYC Council
51st District



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Assembly
64th District



Andrew J. Lanza
State Senator
24th District



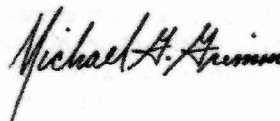
Steven Matteo
Councilmember, NYC Council
50th District



Matthew Titone
Member of Assembly
61st District



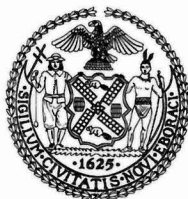
Diane Savino
State Senator
23rd District



Michael G. Grimm
Member of Congress
NY 11



Michael Cusick
Member of Assembly
63rd District



For Immediate Release: March 18, 2014
Contact: Frank Mascia, 718-967-5194

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